(g) if the answer to (f) is negative, what steps are being taken to improve this ghat section in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) An amount of Rs. 39.60 lakhs was spent exclusively for development work of the highway.

(b) to (d) Out of 21 schemes or projects received, 10 have been approved and the remaining were returned to the State PWD unapproved. No proposal is pending.

(e) No, Sir. The work of deficiency survey on the highway is in progress.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Programme for improvement of the ghat section will depend upon the outcome of deficiency survey and availability of funds.

मण्डी और कुल्लू के बीच राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग संख्या 20 का विकास

4136. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह**: क्या जल भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार इस तथ्य से अवगत है कि हर वर्ष भारी वर्षा के कारण मण्डी और कुल्लू के बीच राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग संख्या 20 यातायात के लिए बन्द हो जाता है जिसके कारण स्थानीय लोगों और पर्यटकों के लिए भारी असुविधा होती है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि इस वर्ष जुलाई के महीने में विभिन्न स्थानों पर भारी वर्षा के कारण मण्डी और बाहेंग के बीच सड़क टूट गयी थी और इस राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग को अभी तक पूर्ण रूप से खोला नहीं जा सका है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग संख्या 20-21 को बरास्ता बजौरा-न्यूल-कंडी एक वैकल्पिक लिंक रोड के रूप में बनाकर लोगों को सुविधा प्रदान करने का विचार रखती है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो कब तक; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

जल भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगदीश टाइटलर): (क) मंडी और कुल्लू के बीच का राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग खंड रा० रा०-20 का नहीं बल्कि रा० रा०-21 का हिस्सा है। यह पहाड़ी क्षेत्र से गुजरता है और इसमें ढलाने हैं तथा बरसात के मौसम में यह प्रभावित हो जाता है जिसके फलस्वरूप कभी-कभी यातायात अवरुद्ध हो जाता है।

(ख) जी हां। सड़क को तुरन्त मरम्मत कार्य करने के बाद यातायात के लिए खोल दिया गया है और राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग को अब यातायात चलने योग्य स्थिति में रखा जा रहा है।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ङ) आठवीं योजना में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों के लिए अल्प आबंटन के कारण इस स्थिति में हिमाचल प्रदेश सहित किसी राज्य में नये राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों की घोषणा करना कठिन है।

Construction of a Bridge over River Krishna

4137. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from Government of A. P. to construct a bridge on River Krishna to connect Div. Taluk of Krishna Distt. and Repalle Taluka of Guntur Distt. at Puligadda;

(b) if so, what are the details; and

(c) at what stage of consideration is the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to construct the bridge in question at present under any of the Centrally sponsored Schemes.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Four Laning of National Highway between Vijayawada-Chilkaluripeta Road

4138. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highway between Vijayawada and Chilkaluripeta in A.P. is proposed to be widened from double lane to four lanes;

(b) what is the estimated cost of the project; whether any external assistance as likely to be given;

(c) what is the total land proposed to be acquired for expansion; and

(d) at what stage of execution in the project; what is the target date to complete the work, the details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Estimated cost of the project is Rs. 146 crores. It is too early to indicate if any external assistance is likely to be given.

(c) About 41.21 hectares of land is to be acquired.

(d) The work of land acquisition is still in progress and construction estimate is yet to be sanctioned. As such it is too early to indicate the target date of completion.

Smoking in the Buses

4139. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the incidence of passive smoking in Delhi Transport buses is on the increase as the crew and the owners of Private buses under D.T.C. operation as also the Redline buses and those under S.T.A. system are themselves indulging in smoking in the buses thereby endangering the health of the passengers;

(b) if so, whether any surprise checks are conducted to curb this menace in public buses; if so, the number of persons apprehended during the last three years; and

(c) if no surprise checks are conducted, what are the reasons therefor and how Government propose to end this evil ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Some instances of this nature have come to the notice of DTC and STA, Delhi.

(b) DTC carries out regular checking to curb the menace. The number of persons apprehended during the last three years are as under :—

Year	No. of persons
1991	13
1992	9
1993 (till July, 93).	4

The State Transport Authority, Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi had issued public notice in March and May, 1993 instructing the operators of Redline buses, not to allow smoking in the buses and put 'No Smoking' signs in the Buses and also to ensure strict compliance of the instructions.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Collapse of Pandu Jetty at Guwahati

4140. SHRI W. KULABIDHU SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that Pandu Jetty at Guwahati has collapsed during the course of execution;

(b) if so, what is the total loss in the collapse;

(c) whether the executing party and persons responsible for Pandu Jetty collapse have been penalised; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) During the high flood in July, 1991, 17 out of the 35 piles of Pandu Jetty under construction were damaged/collapsed. The loss for works executed is about Rs. 65.45 lakhs as per the report of the Investigation Committee constituted by the North Eastern Council.

(c) and (d) The contract was terminated and bank guarantee worth Rs. 68.12 lakhs was encashed.

Misappropriation of Union Funds

4141. SHRI M. A. BABY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Trustee representing the interest of labour in Paradeep Port Trust is facing an enquiry of acquiring disproportionate property during his tenure of trusteeship and also if a prosecution case is filed against him by the Deputy Labour Commissioner, Cuttack, for misappropriation of Union funds and for furnishing false information to the Register of Trade Unions; and

(b) if so, action Government contemplates to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) A complaint had been received against a Trustee representing labour alleging acquisition of disproportionate assets, which is under investigation. Also a case under Section 406 IPC has been registered by the Local Police.

(b) No action is contemplated at this stage. After the investigation is over, the appropriate authority will take further necessary action under the relevant rules.